

FOREWORD

This report represents a joint effort by Col. Richard L. Weaver and 1st Lt. James McAndrew to address the request made by Representative Steven H. Schiff (R-NM) for information regarding an alleged crash of an unidentified flying object (UFO) that occurred in the state in 1947. This publication duplicates the information provided to the Secretary of the Air Force and to the General Accounting Office (GAO). It was written as a result of Colonel Weaver's and Lieutenant McAndrew's efforts to locate the records that explain the events of July 1947 leading to what is popularly known as the Roswell Incident. The only information presented here that was not in the report delivered to the Secretary of the Air Force and the GAO is the photograph section. It appears after Colonel Weaver's final attachment, at the very end of this book.

The importance of attachment 32, Lieutenant McAndrew's synopsis, derives from his description of Project MOGUL, the top-priority classified project of balloon-borne experiments, which provides the explanation for the "Roswell Incident." Interest abounds surrounding the UFO wave of 1947 which began in the spring and did not dissipate until fall. Interest in UFOs climaxed during the summer, when multiple sightings of such objects occurred.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report and publication would not have been possible without the expert assistance and outstanding cooperation of many persons and organizations. Appreciation is extended to the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Air Force, Mr. William Davidson, and to his predecessor, Mr. Robert McCormick. The Air Force Historian, Dr. Richard P. Hallion, generously offered the services of his staff and facilities. Col. Jeffrey Butler, of the Secretary of the Air Force Office of Security and Special Program Oversight, made signal contributions to both the research and writing of this report.

The primary research conducted for this report was provided by the Secretary of the Air Force's Declassification and Review Team (SAF/AAZD), headed by Col. Linda Smith. Lt. Col. Dale Freeman and Maj. Len Shoemaker initiated the project. Maj. Bill Coburn, CMSgt. Owen Costello, and MSgt. Jean Hardin provided invaluable assistance throughout. SSgt. Jim Bruns acquainted himself with the numerous research facilities available in the Washington, DC, area, and contributed mightily to the effort. Grace Rowe, the Records Manager for the Secretary of the Air Force, provided unparalleled guidance and counsel to help sort through fifty years of records amassed by the U.S. Air Force.

At Bolling AFB, we are indebted to Col. George Williams, Commander of the Air Force History Support Office, and to his staff for their expert advice, guidance, and kind use of facilities. Our foremost debt is owed to historian Sheldon Goldberg, who greatly assisted our efforts. Additionally, historians Alfred Beck, William Heimdahl, Roger Miller, Eduard Mark, and Jacob Neufeld shared with us their wide knowledge of Air Force history. Also, Robert "Gus" Bell contributed with his attractive art work; Richard Wolf provided invaluable computer expertise; and Maj. Myrt Wilson, SSgt. Steve Rapp, SRA Francis Noel, and Debra Moss supplied essential administrative assistance. Thanks go to editor Barbara Wittig for her efforts in this undertaking.

A special thank-you goes to Bruce Ashcroft, chief historian at the National Air Intelligence Center, Wright Patterson AFB, OH. Mr. Ashcroft gave freely of his official and personal time to provide assistance whenever we asked. Moreover, his unique previous experience, as a historian in the State of New Mexico, added a wealth of detail that would otherwise have been missed.

We must also express our sincerest gratitude to the staff of the USAF Phillips Laboratory, Geophysics Directorate at Hanscom AFB, MA, especially to Lisa Duffeck, of the Research Library, whose research talents contributed significantly to this report. We thank John Armstrong, also of the Research Library, for having the foresight to preserve the old

balloon files; Neal Stark and Jack Griffin, of the Geophysical Directorate's Aerospace Engineering Group, whose corporate knowledge of Air Force ballooning answered many difficult questions; and to historian Ruth Liebowitz for sharing her files and photographs. Many thanks also to Sheilagh Banacos in Information Management and Evelyn Kindler of the Public Affairs Office.

At the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC, it was a pleasure to collaborate with archivist Edward Reese of the Military Reference Branch. Mr. Reese, who retired in October 1994 after more than fifty-three years of faithful civil service, provided a much-welcomed professional logic and calm to our endeavors. Also at the Military Reference Branch, Wil Mahoney's knowledge of Air Force records proved invaluable. At the Washington National Records Center in Suitland, MD, we thank Reference Section archivist Carry Conn, who patiently led us through the stacks, and Richard Boylan, Reference Branch Assistant Chief, for his truly prodigious memory. At the National Personnel Records Center, in St. Louis, MO, archivists Bill Siebert and Eric Voltz helped to map out a search plan, while Carl Paulson capably guided us through it. Pearline Foster shared her time, personnel, and an all-important photocopier. At National Archives II in College Park, MD, Allen Lewis graciously provided access to their excellent facilities.

Numerous individuals agreed to be interviewed for this publication. We would like to express our sincerest thanks to them and their spouses for helping guide us through the complex maze of names, projects, and places that had been shrouded in secrecy by the passing of nearly fifty years. Special thanks go to Athelstan and Kathy Spilhaus, Charles and Wilma Moore, Col. Albert and Jean Trakowski, Lt. Col. Sheridan and Mary Cavitt, and Maj. Irving Newton, USAF (Ret). Also sincerest thanks to Mrs. Emily Duffy and Mrs. Mildred Cray for sharing their recollections and photographs of their distinguished husbands.

We also put to good use the fine reference facilities at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC, and thank Eileen Pickenpaugh, the Deputy Librarian, Murray Bradley, head of Research Reports Section, and Ralph Peterson, the Research Report Librarian, all of whom helped immeasurably to make our searches easier.

Our thanks go also to the men and women of the 913th Airlift Wing (AFRES) at Willow Grove ARS, PA, especially to Col. Richard Moss, the 913th Airlift Wing Commander, and Lt. Col. (Col. Select) Robert Hunter, the 913th Logistics Group Commander, for providing end-of-year assistance. And we are grateful to CMSgt. Michael Breitenbach, for sharing his very useful experiences and insights.

We are most grateful to the members of Air Force Publishing—Ray Del Villar, Linda Garmon, and Jack Fischer—who brought this publication into print, and to SRA Garrety Wood of the 11th Communication Squadron Photo Lab for excellent photo reproduction services.

In the course of researching and writing this report, numerous other individuals contributed to the success of the project. Among them were Col. Gerald Merritt, Director,

Clinical Investigations and Life Sciences Division, Headquarters Air Force Medical Operating Agency, Bolling AFB, DC; John Jenkins, Freedom of Information Act Manager, USAF Phillips Laboratory, Kirtland AFB, NM; George Horn, Technical Publications Editor, Air Force Environmental Technical Applications Centers, Scott AFB, IL; Steve Dean, Computer Specialist, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon; George Cully, Historian, 81st Training Wing, Keesler AFB, MS; Gene Schreiner, Technical Publications Editor, USAF Rome Laboratory, Griffiss AFB, NY; MSgt. Al Mack, Historian, 49th Fighter Wing, Holloman AFB, NM; Lois Walker, Historian, Air Force Matériel Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH; TSgt. Donald Valentine, Administrative Specialist, 89th Airlift Wing, Andrews AFB, MD; Maj. David Thurston, Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs Office; Dr. Saxson and Betsy Hudon of the University of Texas at Arlington Library; Col. Joseph Fletcher, USAF (Ret); Robert Todd; Frank Press; Vance Mitchell; Lt. Col. Joseph Rogan; Maj. Kevin Stubbs; SRA Donald Crissman; Francis Whedon; Richard Hassard; Joseph Worzel; John Peterson; Martin Koenig; Eileen Ulrich Farnochi; and the late Vivian Bushnell. To all, we extend our sincerest gratitude.

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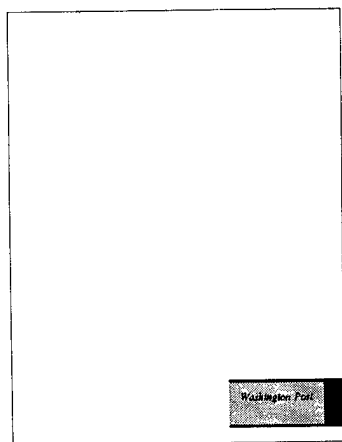
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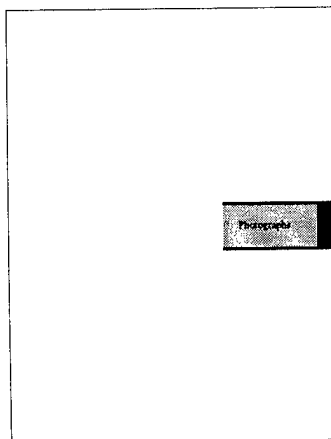
This publication contains two narratives: The *Report of the Air Force Research Regarding the "Roswell Incident"* by Col. Richard L. Weaver and the *Synopsis of Balloon Research Findings* by 1st Lt. James McAndrew. These are the same narratives and supporting documents that went to the Secretary of the Air Force and to the Government Accounting Office, except that a photograph section has been appended. It appears at the end of the book, after Attachment 33.

Thirty-three attachments support Colonel Weaver's *Report*. Attachment 32 consists of Lieutenant McAndrew's *Synopsis*, itself followed by eleven attachments and twenty-five appendices. McAndrew's appendices reproduce the actual sources cited in his report.

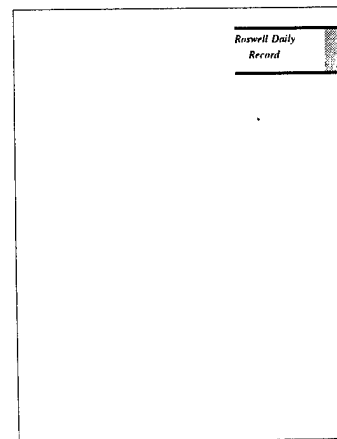
The attachments to the Weaver *Report* are located by black tabs printed at the lower right-hand corner of their cover pages, whereas the attachments to McAndrew's *Synopsis* are located by black tabs printed midway up the page. Appendices to the McAndrew *Synopsis* are identified by gray tabs which appear at the top right-hand corners of their respective cover pages (*see below*).



Weaver Attachments



McAndrew Attachments



McAndrew Appendices

Choosing to distinguish attachments and appendices from each other by using separate colors and placements for the tabs has been done to avoid creating ambiguity in repaginating the original source material reproduced here. Because many of the attachments and appendices appeared in previous publications and were integrally numbered there, their original pagination has not been changed for the purposes of this report. Additionally, any blank pages appearing in these source documents, though

numbered there, were not printed as pages in the present document. This accounts for any discontinuity present in the page numbering of the source material reprinted here.

Security markings have been deleted from previously classified documents. The reader is advised that blacked-out areas noted in the top and bottom margins of pages printed in this document indicate pages that originally contained classified information. These pages have since been declassified, and so can be printed here.

Also, privacy act restrictions apply to witnesses whose statements and interviews are reproduced for the purposes of this report. The reader will see that the addresses of such individuals have been deleted. Such witnesses are identified by name only.